

Top Secret

MCO



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

ARMY review(s) completed.

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114

18 July 1967

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Approved For Release 2004/06/24 : CIA-RDP79T00826A002400120001-6

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Information as of 1600
18 July 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Provisional National Assembly in Saigon has approved the Thieu-Ky ticket for the presidential elections and disqualified General "Big" Minh's ticket.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The relative lull in the ground war in South Vietnam continues (Para. 1).

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Interrogation of a North Vietnamese Army [redacted] provided fresh insight into the present organization and disposition of the 7th NVA Division (Paras. 7-11).

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II. Political Developments in South Vietnam: The Provisional National Assembly has voted against its special election committee's recommendation and approved the Thieu-Ky ticket, while disqualifying General Minh (Para. 1). Moderate Buddhists Thich Tam Chau and Thich Tam Giac have reportedly lost face because of Ky's withdrawal of his presidential candidacy (Para. 2).

III. North Vietnamese Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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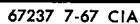
I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The relative lull in major ground fighting in South Vietnam continued on 18 July amid indications of intensified enemy preparations for possible large-scale offensive activity in the western highlands and in northern III Corps.

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18 July 1967

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Relocation of 7th NVA Division

5. Preliminary interrogation of a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) [redacted]

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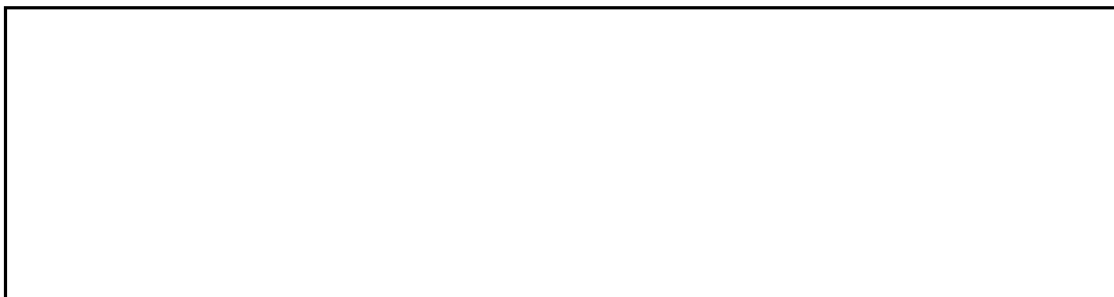
[redacted] has provided fresh insight into the present organization and disposition of the 7th NVA Division.

6. The captive indicated that elements of the 7th Division's 141st Regiment participated in the action on 11 July which, according to MACV, cost the attacking force 144 killed compared with GVN losses of 13 killed and 54 wounded. [redacted] claimed that the 7th Division has been reorganized under the new name "F-5," and that its three subordinate regiments--the 52nd, 141st, and 165th--have been redesignated the 145th, 147th, and 149th, respectively.

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7. According to the captive, elements of the 7th Division are currently deploying from Tay Ninh Province to the Phuoc Long - Binh Long Province area. [redacted] the 147th (formerly the 141st), is reportedly located in the immediate vicinity of An Loc and plans to conduct another attack on the Binh Long provincial capital in the near future.

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18 July 1967

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Following a full day of debate, the Provisional National Assembly disregarded the recommendations of its special committee on elections and voted to approve the Thieu-Ky presidential ticket. In the same session it disqualified General Duong Van Minh--again contrary to the special committee's recommendations--and also disqualified six other slates. In a show of antigovernment sentiment, the special committee had recommended on 17 July that Thieu and Ky be disqualified because they have not resigned their positions as chief of state and premier.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] With Minh now definitely out of the race, Thieu, Tran Van Huong, and Phan Khac Suu emerge as the major contenders among the final total of 11 candidates.

Thich Tam Chau

2. Moderate Buddhist leader Thich Tam Chau and head of the Vietnamese Army Buddhist Chaplains Corps Thich Tam Giac claim that they have lost face with their followers because of Premier Ky's action in taking second place to Thieu. Both had previously voiced a preference for Ky--Chau with considerable vitriol against Thieu--and in so doing had lost prestige and influence with their supporters.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] In an apparent attempt to avoid further committing himself, Chau has now announced that he is going to Malaysia on 19 July for a Buddhist festival and will be out of the country until after the elections. He urged Buddhists to participate in the elections, but did not recommend any particular candidate.

18 July 1967

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